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Concl. c) at least one cam locking unit associated with each telescopic joint, each locking unit having a first engaged position which allows extension of said leg assembly but prevents relative axial movement which would shorten the length of said leg assembly, and a second disengaged position wherein said assemblies are free to move in either axial direction, each locking unit being urged towards its engaged position for automatic locking of said tripod in its deployed position with said cam locking being effected by pressure on said cam unit from its associated extended leg;

d) a hand accessible release element for each leg assembly for independently releasing said at least one cam locking unit associated therewith, thereby enabling the shortening of the length of said assembly; and

e) a shoe positioned between said at least one cam locking unit and a corresponding one of said leg assemblies, wherein said shoe is adapted to reduce an amount of stress applied to said corresponding leg assembly by said cam locking unit.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants are amending original claim 1 to better describe the claimed invention. Applicants also are canceling original claim 13, without prejudice. Applicants are including a marked-up copy of amendments to the claims, with this responsive amendment. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 8, Lines 7-12; and **Fig. 2**. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

REMARKS

1. Rejections

Claims 1, 4, and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,589,757 to Mooney. Claims 2 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,503,357 to Johnson et al. ("Johnson"). Moreover, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,767,090 to Hartman et al. ("Hartman"). Applicants respectfully traverse.